

# A Helpful Page for Practical Housekeepers.

## "TO BE," RATHER THAN "TO APPEAR TO BE"

The Difference in Society Between People of Fashion and People of Distinction.

It has come to be conceded, even in American society, that it was a better thing "to be, rather than to seem." It is also an accepted axiom that though people of fashion are ostentatious, people of distinction are not.

"To be rather than to seem," means that the class or individual adopting such a motto must be simply and naturally themselves, leading their lives, without being unduly biased or influenced by those around them, even while they are not unimpaired by others. It is needless to say that if such a course is the characteristic choice of people of distinction, it does not carry with it the attribute of popularity.

To gain the approval and the applause of the crowd one must be exaggerated. There must be all the trappings and appearances of pomp. The public must be impressed and the performer in the social ring must keep up the pretence of being just a little more gay, a little cleverer and grander than reality requires, because fashion, like shyness, demands a mask. So its devotee can never forget self and is perpetually posing for the benefit both of the gallery and the boxes, in the theatre of the world.

The hall mark of distinction is never more clearly displayed than in the ability to enable its wearer to go quietly about pleasure or occupation without the least consciousness of outside regard or comment, or without being aware that there is an audience deserving of the slightest interest or consideration. Always courteous and unassuming, she claims of others the person of distinction is genuine without stopping to think, and takes on color from no circumstance or influence of environment.

Even the well-born follower of fashion is not always well-bred. Such a one has a great dread at all times of being too genuine, preferring what has been equivocally styled "fact," to the least suspicion of sincere straightforwardness.

Between "the seeming" and "the being," there is, then, an unbridgeable difference. Not because the things done by the two classes are so unlike, but because of their diverse attitudes. What constitutes the vital existence of the former is the surface amusement of the latter.

To illustrate this difference suppose a case in question between a hostess, recognized as a distinguished young matron, and one who is a strenuous woman of fashion. Both may have people to dine. But the company of the one is not to be made up of a small but congenial circle. Not one of the circle will feel that he or she is assisting at a function. On the contrary the hospitality enjoyed, although perfect in its way, has the charm of informality and of having cause to pass by a fortuitous chain of circumstance. A dinner party given by the other is nothing if not formal. It is largely attended by people attired resplendently, and accompanied by all the paraphernalia of an eventful occasion, the successful conduct of which taxes the nerves of the woman giving it to the last degree.

To sum up the matter in a nutshell, the woman of distinction has many resources and interests which preclude the possibility that society is all of life to her. The woman of fashion may be a good wife and mother and a successful hostess, from a certain point of view, but she is making a business of her pursuit of pleasure and giving that business an undue importance, not only in so far as she herself is concerned, but in so far as many others, who come under her influence, are concerned.

## Features of Early Fashions

Trimmings an Important Factor—The Eton Jacket—A Change in Skirt Lengths.

"Trimmings everywhere" says Dame Fashion, and immediately the makers of the mode proceed to carry out the wishes of this fickle dame. The extreme vogue of soft, sheer materials in woolen and silks, as well as cottons, is largely responsible for the elaborate trimming schemes in the new season's productions. Not alone dressy frocks for house, dinner, reception and evening wear display much and a variety of trimming, but the taller makes of henrietta, light weight broadcloth, homespun, Scotch tweeds and the like for early spring wear, and the linens for moderate summer days, one and all show a greater or lesser amount of trimming.

Those jaunty little Eton jackets which accompany the circular skirt are well adapted to the new hat, embroidery, lace, ribbons and button trimmings which the majority of them display. The cut of this little coat borders on the severe, but the elaborate trimming schemes which the designers are daily turning out in such bewildering variety make them the dressiest affairs imaginable.

**Broad Box Pleats in Latest Skirts**

The pleated skirt is still seen, but it is not the pleated skirt we have had for several seasons past, that is, the skirt cut with many gorges, a pleat on each gore. The new pleated model is a perfect circle, the fullness confined to the figure by broad box pleats, from ten to twelve in number, those stitched to hip length and falling in graceful pressed pleats to the feet. Then, there is the circular skirt with the pleated front panel, which quite frequently is cut in one with a shallow yoke.

A point creating much comment, even to the point of dissatisfaction on the part of many, is the length of the skirt in the new semi-tailored suits for afternoon wear. The woolen tailor modes of the mannish tailored type for morning and pedestrian wear show the skirts of the sometime fashionable swing-clear length, but those for dressier wear, topped by the fancy little Eton and bolero jacket referred to in the foregoing, are just long enough to touch the ground. It cannot be denied that this length skirt is more becoming to the average woman, and even though she may in her heart rebel she will meekly accept it.

## The Poet's Corner

### Great Grandmama.

Fragrant with lavender, mellowed, with time,  
Letters in cross-stitch, and proverbs in rhyme,  
Great-grandmama's sampler—and she, if you please,  
Is happily going to meetings and teas.

Dainty caps? Not at all—she prefers a smart bonnet,  
With ribbons and flowers and lace up on it.  
White hair smoothly parted o'er placid white brow;  
Oh, not they are doing it pompadour now.

Great-grandmama's kerchief is folded away,  
But Great-grandmama isn't—she's shopping to-day  
In a tailor-made gown; later she'll be so fine  
In black velvet and lace when she goes out to dine.

Great-grandmama's knitting; a thing of the past,  
She does collar tops now, and has ever the last  
Of the newest ideas in pillows and pieces,  
For cousins and grand-children, daughters and nieces.

Her lips are a smile, and her eyes are a twinkle,  
Her cheeks are of roses; she's scarcely a wrinkle.  
Save those in her brain for the pleasure of others—  
This best of grand-dames and this best of grand-mothers.

Thus fragrant with violets, mellow with time,

Great-grandmama flourishes, still in her prime;  
Her life-fairie brodered, but not finished yet,  
Though "his seventy years since the first stitch was set."  
—Edna Kingsly Wallace in Harper's Bazar.

### The Door.

The door is shut; what lies beyond  
I may not see nor know;  
Thou of the past, O dear and fond—  
Do not the way I go.

The door is shut and I am blind  
To star, if star there be;  
The fire of morn lies far behind;  
Lord, hold the light for me!  
—Virginia Woodward Cloud.

### The Choice.

I hung a light in the window,  
Made ready the bread and wine;  
Then, idle and still, I waited love's will  
To enter this house of mine.

My neighbor sat at her spinning,  
And brave was her song and gay;  
But she gave no heed to a vagrant's need.  
Nor cared if he came her way.  
Love stole through the purple shadow,  
And what were the gifts he bore?  
I hastened to see, but, ah, was it true?  
He knelt at my neighbor's door!  
—Charlotte Becker in Allure.

### Cream Cheese.

Cream cheese, to be digested and hence nutritious, should not be scalded, but the clabber should be poured into the cheese bag to drip as soon as it is thoroughly sour. It should not hang over night, either, as it gets too dry. It should be hung up in the morning so that it can be watched and taken down when of creamy consistency. It may be served with sugar and cream, or a little nutmeg or cinnamon. —  
—Murray Stephenson.

## PART OF MISS ROOSEVELT'S TROUSSEAU.



## CHILDREN'S PARTIES. THE BIRTHDAY.

A birthday is an important event in a child's life, and should not pass unnoticed.

A small party for little children is usually more enjoyable and more easily managed than a large one. With many mothers it is the custom to invite as many little guests as correspond to the number of years of the child whose birthday is celebrated.

Make the table look as attractive as possible with flowers. A pretty arrangement for a fifth birthday is to have a round table with vines, or a rope of wild flowers or leaves, arranged over it to represent a five-pointed star. The sandwiches, confectionery and fruit may be placed within the star, the birthday cake in the center, and the five guests seated between the points of decoration.

For a sixth birthday, a pretty arrangement would be a six-pointed star, the points to be made with the long fronds of the sword fern. The money myrtle is also effective for this decoration, and, in summer, the little partridge vine, with its red berries, to be found in the woods, makes very pretty trimming.

For a seventh birthday, the other should be in the center, and the other should be placed within the star, the children's plates between the points. Either a round or square table may be used, as preferred.

For an eighth birthday, a square table may be used, with walls of Troy decorations on two sides, and a six-pointed star, the birthday cake in the center, and the five guests seated between the points of decoration.

For a tenth birthday, a long table is needed, and a pretty arrangement of smilax in scallops, with flowers at each end, may be carried out, a plate being laid at each end of the scallops.

In all these arrangements, due prominence must be given the birthday cake, the principal feature of the feast. It is usually placed in the center, decorated with frosting, and holds as many tiny candles as the child is years old.

These are placed in holders that are thrust into the frosting. The candles are lighted just before the children go to the table. Much merriment usually arises over souvenirs placed in the cake.

A candy house is a novel form of decoration for the birthday table. It may be built of red and white candy sticks and have a roof of chocolate sticks. For a rail fence, sticks of chocolate may be utilized, and green spun candy can simulate grass.

For a children's party, try the following device: Place four chairs in one end of a room and throw over them a large rug or shawl to cover them completely, down to the floor.

Have some one, clever at entertaining, to double his hands into fists, and on the back of the hands, with a piece of charcoal, paint eyes, nose and mouth, and on one, a moustache. Put dolls' dresses on the arms, reaching down to the elbow, and hood, or caps on the hands.

Let the person thus prepared crawl in between the chairs, and resting his elbows on the floor, hold his forearms perpendicular, so that the backs of the

hands will be facing the audience. All the rest of the persons body should be concealed, of course, under the shawl.

Call these two little people Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thump. Have some one for their manager who should stand beside them, and tell them what to do. He can have them perform a number of clever tricks in bowing to the audience, kissing each other, and pushing each other. They can answer questions in a little fine voice, or say "How do you do?"

This entertainment will prove very pleasing to little people.

## JUST FOR FUN

### The Sad End.

Mr. Monkey:—"What became of the baby?"

Mrs. Monkey:—"Mr. Hippo, who is running for office, came around and kissed him."

Mrs. Hightthought:—"Do you not think in every nature there is a sealed room, a holy of holies, to which the world is not admitted?"

Mrs. Plainthought:—"Yes, I know; my cook won't allow me in the kitchen."

Cynic, savagely:—"They say the fashionable boy of to-day recognizes his baby only by looking at the nurse."

Fashionable Mother, unmoved:—"How extraordinarily clever, when one changes nurses so often! I always tell ours by the milkmaid."

Charlie:—"Halloo, old man, what's the matter with your head?"

Henry:—"It was an accident; all Miss Brown's fault."

Charlie:—"Indeed! How was she responsible for it?"

Henry:—"Oh well, you know, she's got an unfortunate habit of sticking pins into her waist belt."

Mamma, what is a spinster?  
A spinster, my dear, is a woman to be envied, but don't tell your father I said so.

What is meant by "a glad surprise," pa?

It was a glad surprise, my boy, when your mother didn't give me cigars for Christmas.

### Beyond Conception.

Mr. Nowhall, the bridegroom, was humbly trying to learn some of the simpler technical terms applying to feminine garb

and a few of the lesser intricacies of dressmaking language, but Mrs. Newhall declared that he was very slow.

"I think it's a shame for Madam Fitz to make Elsie Gray's gown exactly like mine when we're both brides, and she knew we'd be invited to the same places," said Mrs. Newhall, on her return from a dinner party.

"Why, it looked entirely different," said her husband, in his most soothing tone. "It was yellow, and yours is pink, and—"

"That's just the point," said Mrs. Newhall, indignantly; "that's one of Madam Fitz's mean little tricks. It was exactly the same gown, only it was yellow instead of pink, and chiffon instead of silk, and where mine has tucks hers has folds, and in place of my rosettes Elsie's has those loops, and where mine has the material hers has the lace, and the top of my sleeves is the bottom of hers, and—"

"Help! Help!" cried Mr. Newhall.—Exchange.

### Time By the Forelock.

The next time you are hungry if you will take the occasion to plan some meals you will be astonished to find how readily your little works, and how many appetizing dishes will occur to you. Everything, under those favorable conditions, "would taste good," and you will have an entire week's menus written off before you know it. Let those housekeepers who are in the habit of arranging for the table just after breakfast, when the appetite is satisfied, a dozen household distractions are on their minds, and the grocer is waiting, try it once. They never go back to the old way.—L. K. W., in Good Housekeeping.

### Valuable Scrapbook.

As a home dressmaker, I have what I consider a valuable scrap-book, comprised of old cuts from fashion books, carefully selected for grace and uniqueness. For the society woman or the dressmaker this is an invaluable aid in planning gowns. The S. V. L. B. return in a few years and by referring to the old plates suggestions, correct in style, but differing in detail from the new designs, may be obtained. One woman of prominence, dressing along these lines, always gets the credit of importing her gowns.—E. W. D.

### Diversity of Gifts.

There's lots of things  
That grown folks make—  
Mother makes clothes,  
And cook makes cake;  
Granny makes mittens  
And hoods and things,  
Father makes whistles,  
And kites and awnings;  
And once I cried  
When I was small,  
'Cause I couldn't make  
A thing at all.  
But mother said, 'Honey,  
Now don't you grieve,  
For it takes a child  
To make believe!'  
—Hannah G. Fernald.

### A Pithy Sermon.

Here is the pithiest sermon ever preached: "Our ingress into life is naked and bare, our progress through life is trouble and sorrow, and our egress out of it we know not where; but, doing well here, we shall do well there. I could not tell more by preaching a sermon."

## OUR SHAKESPEARE CONTEST.

The editor of the Woman's Page offers a prize of five dollars to the Richmond or Virginia woman sending in the best of answers to the twenty questions published below on "The Taming of the Shrew." The questions must be mailed so as to reach this office by January 31st. They must be directed to the editor of the Woman's Page, care of Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

No one can send in more than one answer to the same question. Answers should be numbered, written briefly and to the point. With every list of answers, a printed list of questions, clipped from The Times-Dispatch, must be enclosed.

Attention is called to the published list of plays announced for competitive study during the year. Names of prize-winners and prize answers to questions will be published on the second Sunday of each month.

In addition to the Shakespeare contest the editor of the page offers for February two special prizes, one to the woman sending in the best illustrated valentine, the other to the woman sending in the best illustrated "Twenty-second of February" story. The valentine must reach the office by Tuesday, February 13th, or before. The story must be in the editor's hands by Tuesday, February 20th. The prize valentine and story will be printed, with the name of the winning contestant, the former on February 18th, the latter on February 25th.

The questions for the February Shakespeare contest, which turns on "The Merchant of Venice," will be published Sunday, February 4th. The name of the successful January contestant will be published Sunday, February 11th. Answers in the January contest will be received every day in the month, and should, at the latest, be mailed so as to reach the editor's desk by the 31st.

### JANUARY QUESTIONS.

1. What Elizabethan play, in which the husband is dominated by a wife's influence, may be considered a sequel to "Taming of the Shrew?"
2. At what period in the career of Shakespeare was "The Taming of the Shrew" produced?
3. Was it customary in Shakespeare's day for women of high social position to study Greek, Latin and other languages?
4. What does Shakespeare accomplish in Act I. of this play, as noted by the careful observer and reader?
5. Did Petruchio select Sunday as his wedding day because that was the usual fashion in Elizabethan England?
6. Why does Shakespeare describe the wedding of Katherine and Petruchio by narrative, rather than by action?
7. What information does the reader derive in regard to the Elizabethan stage from the stage directions given at the beginning of Scene II?
8. What dramatic purpose had Shakespeare in a detailed description of Katherine and Petruchio?
9. What is Katherine's description of her treatment by her husband, and what passionate protest against this treatment does she make?
10. What dispute takes place between Petruchio and Katherine as to the sun and moon?
11. What is the effect on Hortensio of Petruchio's conquest of Katherine?
12. What does Katherine say on the subject of the duty owed by wives to their lords?
13. How does Shakespeare's portrayal of love and courtship compare in this play with that pictured in "Twelfth Night," "Romeo and Juliet," "Much Ado About Nothing," "As You Like It" and "Winter's Tale"?
14. Who founded the University of Padua, referred to in this play, and what celebrated men were students there?
15. From what did Shakespeare take the character of Grissel, or Griselda?
16. What position did the city of Venice hold among European capitals in Shakespeare's day?
17. Was it customary in Shakespeare's time for wine to be drunk in the church at weddings and for the groom to kiss his bride?
18. What was the use of a "censer" in a private apartment, as referred to in Scene III. of the play?
19. Who were Apollo, Semiramis, Cythera, Io, Daphne?
20. Do you conclude that in the end Katherine had won Petruchio's affection?

### LIST OF PLAYS.

February—"Merchant of Venice."  
March—"Much Ado About Nothing."  
April—"Winter's Tale."  
May—"Romeo and Juliet."  
June—"Othello."  
July—"Henry VIII."  
August—"Julius Caesar."  
September—"Midsummer Night's Dream."  
October—"As You Like It."  
November—"King Lear."  
December—"Hamlet."

## WOMAN'S GOSSIP.

Things in General That Concern Women, and in Which They Are Interested.

Says R. H. R., in the February Metropolitan, writing about Maude Adams' interpretation of the part of "Peter Pan":

"J. M. Barrie's fascinating fairy tale: 'It is hard to tell whether Maude Adams is made for this play or whether, as Mr. Barrie asserts, the play is made for her. Never has she done anything more intuitively true than her exquisite portrayal of the brave, wistful little hero, Peter Pan, the boy who wouldn't grow up.'"

According to the latest report from across the Atlantic, the betrothed of King Alfonso, and the future Queen of Spain, is Princess Victoria Eugenie, daughter of Princess Henry of Battenberg, and niece of King Edward VII., of England, from whom she inherits many forceful traits. Without being in the least mannish, the Victoria Eugenie is a fine horsewoman, a good marksman, and a woman who has a sense of her own which she is capable, sometimes, of working out.

Mlle Cleo de Merode, the cleverly advertised Frenchwoman, whose advent on the American stage some years ago, created a profound sensation, is about to achieve fresh notoriety by a second visit to this country. It is a curious fact that the thing by which she is best known to women in the United States is that she introduced a new style of hair dressing called "the ingenue mop," that was as popular for a time as is the rippling "Marcel wave" of present time.

"Showers" of many kinds, given for brides-elect, this season, have taken on attractive forms. The latest of all, says Ruth Virginia Sackett in Harper's Bazar, for February, is the "sachet shower," in which tastes for daintily remembered. The "sachet" perfume and flowers are usually and when guests are accompanied by a heart-shaped table cloth is of open green smilax, studded with tiny pink rosebuds, wreaths the crystal candlesticks holding pink shaded tapers, instead of linen, doilies are washed with heavy white paper, and each one may be a bed of heart-shaped pink roses. The center of the table is a Cupid's bush, a rose in full bloom, with delightfully scented white silk sachets, ornamented with pink ribbon rosettes, and a small work, embroidered with pink and white, and extending from each to the plates and there fastened with a cluster of rosebuds.

Just before the serving of coffee, the ribbons are pulled and the sachets are cured as souvenirs. After luncheon, when guests have returned to the parlor, they are given cards inscribed with a sketch of the bride on the outside. On the other, they are expected to write advice for the future life of the guest of honor. To the girl who gives the book department of a large store, and is asked for a position to sell books, I explained I had nothing to give her and then I said pleasantly, "I'm awfully sorry."

"Oh," she said, turning to go, "you needn't be sorry. I really don't need the money. I simply wanted to work here so I could read the books."—Youth's Companion.

There are many strange ideas of business. The young woman whose application is recorded in the Kansas City Times may have been a sister of the wife who applied for admission to the New York Medical College on the plea that she wanted to do something to occupy her spare moments.

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Reader, Not Grafter.

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